

Good evening,

Sorry this email will be so long.....Quite a bit of information from the two conference calls today (KBEMS and Regional EMS Meeting). Please see information below:

Kentucky Board of EMS (4/8/2020)

Chuck O'Neal

Introduction and meeting start at 1100 hrs.

Mike Poynter

Day 30 of State EOC activation

Information is changing literally daily/if not hourly. EMS is a critical part of this entire process, so thank you for all of your efforts!

Executive Director Poynter introduced the Governor to the Call

Governor Beshear

We will get through this. We will get through this together.

EMS is very important and he appreciates our efforts in EMS. He knows that we are sacrificing at work and with our families. He is aware that we are at an increased risk of COVID-19. Please keep up the good work and be resilient in our EMS efforts. Need to be strong because we do not know how long this is going to last.

He is very proud of how Kentucky and EMS folks are responding the efforts of fighting this.

We have flattened the curve, but we will still see some increase in cases in the next week or two.

PPE acquisition is a terrible system at the National level, and he spends much of his day to trying to purchase this equipment. Most all leads are diverted to the national level or to "Hot Spots," but he will keep trying to find equipment for Kentucky.

Direct ask to EMS---please keep social distancing amongst staff. Please distance even when in the station and when not on calls, etc. We must set the example of social distancing.

He talked about prioritizing testing for EMS, first responders and healthcare workers. KY is in need of swabs, which will allow us to test an additional 2,000/day for 6 days each week. They are working with a new lab and testing system, but they need to make sure it is accurate before releasing it.

State park cabins and cottages will be opened for those front line workers in need of isolation.

Paul Philips

Personnel reports have 159 agencies that returned the information.

53 in quarantine/ isolation throughout the state. KBEMS will keep doing this personnel survey weekly, as of now. This may change to daily if the need arises over the next few weeks.

Guidance sent from Dr. Stack on when to release folks back to work. They know that this does conflict slightly with the CDC guidelines. KBEMS staff spoke about the CDC and Dr. Stack having staff at the State EOC, so they are working on this information together.

PPE request process is being updated and will be shared soon. **Please know that we are at a pull vs. a push for all PPE. Remember to fill out the daily PPE report requests; it is the only way we are going to get PPE. If we don't participate in the daily process, we will not get it.**

The process for requesting the use of State Parks the Governor spoke about is forthcoming. It will be sent out as soon as it is available.

Bob Andrew

Thanks to all for what we are doing. Governor has allowed some great things with his/Executive Director Poynter's emergency orders.

Application processing is being done without delays.

Certification and license applications are being processed without delay. Online verification is still available.

There are some staff in the office, but most are working from home. Please be patient with staff as they work to answer calls, emails, etc.

There are emergency orders via Governor Beshear (SB150 and Executive Order 243), which will remove all continuing education requirements for EMS providers renewing this year.

COVID reinstatement process has an emergency clause allowing all previously certified/licensed in Kentucky an avenue to reinstate. For those affected, there will be an application in their KEMSIS account. They will open up reinstatement for 60 days and this is free of charge. See application in KEMIS for more information. They will need to fill out the application and pass the required background for reinstatement.

EMS students from a KY TEI-can obtain a 1 year temporary license or certification. This must be signed off by Program Director/Medical Director and will be based on competency. Anyone wanting to use this will need to apply and obtain NREMT, for their level, within one year. There will be a webinar explaining this when these changes occur.

Regarding National Registry, Bob Andrew will release a document that explains several National Registry related concerns....guidance of details on COVID-19, Pearson Vue testing, etc.

COAEMSP-has finally released guidance on accredited programs.

Please download the following App: "Heads KY EMS," available on Apple or Android

The educational survey has been finalized, with the following results:

173 TEIs surveyed with 93% return rate

2 EMR programs with 12 students

45 EMT programs with 646 students and 45 ready to test

2 AEMT programs with 30 students and 16 ready to test

12 Paramedic programs with 227 students and 127 in clinical rotations

KBEMS has added a COVID-19 AEMT course for those in paramedic training but not yet ready to be released at the paramedic level. The TEI can declare competency for AEMT and have them certify at an AEMT level until they complete their paramedic program and show competency.

Drew chandler

20,000 archived KEMSIS accounts have been unlocked, for those that may want to reinstate.

Look on KEMSIS website (front page) if they forgot password, need help logging in, etc.

Ambulance service needs to work with ePCR with schematron for validation process. It checks for errors when the information is transferring from the service to the state. Please get with ePCR provider to ensure that this is being completed accurately.

Chuck O'Neal

Advises that they are really starting to see alternate complaints, as opposed to "Typical" COVID signs/symptoms. Some of the alternate complaints are GI, diarrhea, chest pain without fever or SOB, etc.

Per Dr. Stack and Kentucky Public Health: if no symptoms, no need to have them tested.

Please use KDPH exposure protocols for guidance. This has been sent out previously.

Emergency orders will be drafted and directed by Mike Poynter.

Some of the emergency regulations will include the following: extended use of supplies, alternate vehicles for transport, use of EMS telemedicine in the field, non-transport.....Hopefully these will be released either Thursday or Friday of this week.

General Questions from EMS Providers, with Answers from KBEMS Representative

Paul Philips-Personnel survey will be out on Monday mornings...please complete and send back ASAP. Follow up calls will come from KBEMS to make sure that we are doing okay and that we do not have any needs that are going unaddressed.

Bob Andrew-ACLS can be lapsed for those wanting to reinstate until 12/31/2020. This decision would be left up to the service director and medical director for the agency. Keep in mind that AHA has extended use for for certifications, for the time being, based on AHA guidelines.

Bob Andrew-All field requirements will be eliminated for students in various training programs.

Chuck O'Neal-in the absence of symptoms there is no evidence to test staff. No healthcare providers without symptoms should be getting tested. Per Dr. Stack, in the absence of symptoms, the test may be unreliable anyway.

Bob Andrew-Any reinstatement is full with no restrictions, so they will be able to keep their license without any restrictions. KBEMS will open up a 60 day window to reinstate. Must complete application and background check.

Mike Poynter-Addressed the CDC vs. KDPH guidelines and some discrepancies. CDC is in the State EOC and they are collaborating with Dr. Stack and Kentucky Public Health. They feel that the next week or two is going to get worse, so we will need to look at protocols for returning to work, s the need arises. They will send this information out if/when it changes.

Chuck O'Neal-MDI vs. aerosol protocol for nebulizers. Please submit protocols changes requests at this time and they will turn these around very quick. May see some forthcoming guidelines outlining these changes. Hope to have this out in a week or so.

Chuck O'Neal-Can the State Medical Director put together a Best Practice protocols that the State can use. He agrees that that KBEMS may be able to put together a COVID "Best Practices" guideline. He also discussed that we need to be careful about not resuscitating and changing treatments in the field, due to COVID. Chuck O'Neal suggests that this may have major moral and legal implications and KBEMS does not feel that we are at this point.

Paul Philips-PPE requests will be sent to State Public Health. This will follow a new process and will likely be done via the State WebEOC.

Regional EMS and Medical Directors Update
04/08/2020 at 1300 hrs.

Brandon Johnson

Introduction and Start of meeting

KBEMS Executive Director-Mike Poynter

The State/Governor are behind us.

State EOC is staffed 7 days /week by staff of KBEMS. They are available if we need their support.

KBEMS is looking at changing regulations for the state EMS agencies. Director Poynter has been given authority to make EMS changes that are needed. This authority has come from the Governor and he will be looking at emergency regulations, which will be signed and released as they become available.

NKY Health Department-Dr. Saddler

Total of 155 cases in NKY

These are those that have tested positive. We know there are many more in NKY, they just haven't been tested, results aren't yet back, etc.

13 deaths

Most have been elderly and had underlying medical complications. This is consistent with International findings.

Some of the data the Governor has been showing are trends that look like Kentucky may be starting to "Flatten the Curve." This is due to the actions that we are taking. Big questions is, are we doing enough to keep the healthcare system from becoming overrun.

Please keep doing what is asked related to social distancing, etc. This really seems to be working.

University Air Care-Katie Kroeger

Air Care is making some changes to their operations. They are flying COVID patients. They have a policy in place, but they will be under specific circumstances.

They are wearing full PPE, even for scene flights. Please make sure that they are aware if these are patients are needing an airway, etc. This way they can be better prepared for PPE in these situations.

They may make some changes to the equipment, as they have viral filters, etc. in place. Just be aware that we may see some changes in the way that they are caring for patients.

May also have an additional crew member, as MD Residents are in their training. They may also take a parent, etc., but they will be screened and must meet certain criteria before they will allow a family member to fly.

They are also not wanting to take any extra belongings, so please try to limit what they are flying with.

Designated aircraft for COVID, but this is more for an inter-hospital transfer. Scene flights will be the same as they normally do.

Please try to donate blood and Hoxworth is taking appointments.

Air Care is now flying ECMO patients, but these will probably be transported by ground. If it is long distance, then Air Care may fly them. They can also do Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT).

Jason Murray, MD

Please continue to wear proper PPE and keep up your guard. Not all patients are being honest with their symptoms.

Still seeing some confusion or nervousness with those that may be positive. Has been getting some questions about whether they should be taking COVID patients to a specific hospital. As of now, we are continuing to do what we have been doing and transporting to an appropriate facility.

Medical Directors

Dr. Saddler speaks on the letter sent out by Dr. Stack and KDPH. Her opinion is that we keep doing what we are doing in NKY, unless the Medical Directors have a different opinion. She feels that the MD's are making the appropriate calls on those needing isolation or needing to return to work, etc. The MD's can always call her if they have any questions.

Dr. Murray

Agrees with Dr. Saddler and feels that we should take precautions and isolate staff as we have been, unless we are in a high risk situation and simply need 1st responders. May require mask wearing and social isolation while in the FD, if possible.

Dr. Smith

Agrees with Dr. Murray. Feels that the KDPH letter sent out sends some confusion on who should return. He feels we should err on keeping those isolated, unless we are really short on staff.

Medical Directors and Dr. Saddler seems to agree that we, in NKY, should keep doing what we are doing, unless we get into a crisis mode.

Dr. Murray

Spoke on disinfecting equipment, but he does not know if these ideas that are floating on social media/the internet, are working or not. Feels that we need to try to conserve or reuse PPE allocation plan, we may run out.

Dr.'s Spellman and Emery

Both on the call, but having audio issues. They both agree with the other Medical Directors.

General Question

Brandon is asking about the difference between an exposure and an encounter. With limited testing, should we send staff back to work without a negative test? This is due to the fact that maybe as many as 50% don't have symptoms.

Dr. Smith and Saddler agree that this is a problem, but there simply aren't enough tests. Dr. Emery, per Dr. Savani, states that testing at the wrong times may lead to a 30% false readings

Dr. Murray, even with a conservative strategy, we are going to miss some folks.

Dr. Murray

Asked if SW protocols have been sent to KBEMS for Director Poynter's input and approval, regarding changes to dealing with COVID patients. This may change the way we respond to some calls, cardiac arrest, etc. Brandon will send to Director Poynter, so he can have these in mind when he writes the emergency regulations.

SitRep for Boone, Kenton and Campbell County

Rob Butcher-has already sent the protocols for KBEMS to look at, regarding information above.

Chief Geiger-seeing approx. a 20% positive rate for those that they are tracking.

Chief Geiger-Staffing a COVID ambulance with a three person crew, on OT. Driver is not exposed and does not encounter the patient, and the two care providers are in full Tyvek suits on every call. Approximately 20 minute decon. after the call. Patient transports have ranged from 1-7/day.

Next Call: Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 at 1300 hrs.

Best regards,

Capt. Peddicord

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April 9, 2020
Good evening,

I was pretty disconnected from any new developments today; however, there are a few items to be sent out.

-There is a new process for requesting PPE. All requests will be managed through the state, and I have attached a "Fact Sheet," which may answer some questions. Please contact James House with any questions that you may have, his email is listed below:

jamesr.house@ky.gov

-The Kentucky State Fire Commission has released a statement on virtual learning, as it related to COVID. That document is also attached.

Thanks,

Capt. Peddicord

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